January 16, 2009 TO STATE ADMINISTRATION Exhibit No
Exhibit No
5B196
To whom it may concern Bill NO.
we the people of the It Betterap Reservation would like to support The Native american day
would like to support The Native american day
Third Firday of Septembers to be a
Third Firday of Septembers to be a — STATE Holiday- not only to be recognized
as a holiday
Being we are The first american people on
this USA contient
we the Elders of the Fort Belknap Senior Citizens and people support this issue
Citizens and people support this issue
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Minerva allen president
Ruly Frost Smoke Vice Chairman

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lease Sign In PLEASE SIGN EACH NAME INDIVIDUALLY DATE:/-Title III Daily Register for Congregate Meals: L.P. NAME: NAME: ou La inie Stanlo indu McCabi Allen ero, N Much Lei Jours to Edecentr Klickery Mace Welands Ancie Altree hams Olilele Shortman 11st de 39 Heffley Sill 40 Maile Snell Meson Sr

HAYS/LODGEPOLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 19, 2009

LETTER OF SUPPORT

SB 196

STATE HOLIDAY FOR AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you in support of SB 196 for the establishment of a State Holiday for American Heritage Celebration proposed by the Hays/Lodge Pole School students and sponsored by Senator Jonathan Windy Boy.

Native Americans have played a significant role in the history and development of the State of Montana from our territorial days to the present. SB 196 recognizes this role and the important contributions made by Native Americans in our great state by seeking to establish a State Holiday recognizing Montana's Native Americans.

As a 4th generation Montanan, I urge you to pass SB 196.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert McLean, Jr.

Tobert Mc Lean J



ADMINISTRATION:

Nancy Coleman SuperIntendent 406-353-2289

TERRY BOLEN High School Principal 408-353-CATS

SALLY O'LEARY Jr. High Principal 406-353-CATS

JOE DAVIS Elementary Principal 353-2258

TERESA CORNELL Business Manager/Clerk 408-353-2289 Fax # (408) 353-2874

HARLEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 12

Jr/8r High Elementary 610 1" Ave. SE 110 3" Ave. SW PO Box 339 PO Box 309 Harlem, Montana 59526



BOARD MEMBERS

DONALD LONGKNIFE Chairperson

EMERY GRAY Vice Chairperson

KATRESE HAMMOND **Board Member**

KYLE BIGBY **Board Member**

VINCENT BELL **Board Member**

January 15, 2009

Nancy Stiffarm, Title VII/Indian Studies Director

4063532339

Harlem Schools

Box 339

Harlem, Mt 59526

To Whom It May Concern:

) am writing this letter in support of Hays/Lodgepole student led bill to recognize Native American Day (the last Friday of September) as a state recognized holiday. It would give the day off and be an opportunity for the state and its people to honor and recognize the Native People of our state.

I have worked in Harlem Schools for nearly 30 years, and feel that most holidays do not have a specific meaning to our young people, that it is just another day off. With our state's great history, and the impact that Native peoples had in this, it is appropriate and timely to specify a day to honor their impact and influence.

Our state was one of the first to implement Indian Ed for All into our schools. We continue to have a number of State tribal members elected to the House and Senate and this year to have our first state official - Denise Juneau was elected to the office of Public Instruction.

I applaud the students in their development and work in the presentations of this bill. It is important to have our young people aware of, and to be involved in the process. It is also a very important issue, and encourage your support. If you have any questions, please call 353-2921.

Nancy Stiffarm

Title VII/Indian Studies Direct

We are Here to Provide a Learning Environment That Encourages Excellence.

Terry Brockie
'O'ɔʻɔʻɔníííh (Gros Ventre) Language Teacher
Hays/Lodge Pole Public School Dist. #50
P.O. Box 110
Hays, Mt. 59527
January 16, 2009

State of Montana, State Legislature Helena, Mt. 59601

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask you to support Bill Draft #LC1262, Bill Type# SB196, which will create a state holiday for American Indian Heritage Celebration. This bill is a Hays/LodgePole H.S. student led effort on behalf of Native Americans and Montanans who inhabit this great state. The purpose of this bill is to celebrate the great heritage that the First People of Montana have contributed to history of this great state.

First, this is a bill that is being led by our youth and I applaud them for their initiative. Our children of the seven reservations and urban communities of Montana are the future of our existence as Native People. Our culture teaches us to cherish our children, they are a gift of life from the Creator and we hold them in this sacred manner. I am writing this letter of support to create a day in which our children will be acknowledged for their initiative. Our culture traditionally is oral and our word is sacred. But, today the written word is also powerful. I can think of no better way to show our children the power of the word than passage of this bill. It will show our children that we can make a difference. Many of us live in a world of poverty and all the ills that come with it. Our children see things such as alcoholism and suicide. Many live in broken homes moving from house to house, never truly having a place to call 'home'. This sometimes creates a feeling of hopelessness and low self-esteem. With the passage of this bill, it will hopefully create pride amongst all of our people. This bill will reaffirm our understanding that we have existed for thousands of years and will continue to do so with pride in our unique cultural heritage.

Secondly, our state is vast; we can look to mountains, valleys, rivers, towns and find contributions of place names that our tribes have given to this great state. Many people come to our state for the beauty and our unique history of the west. People travel across the oceans to enjoy our dancing and singing at our annual celebrations each summer. The Tribes of Montana have not

only contributed to the beauty and history, but worked hard to maintain our unique culture for all to share.

I think that this is an important bill. We have taken the lead in Indian Education across the United States, let us be first to the take the lead in the acknowledgement of the First People of this great country.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Derry Brockie
Terry Brockie

Kenneth (Tuffy) Helgeson

Nakóda (Assiniboine) Language Teacher

P.O. Box 110

Hays, Mt 59527

January 16, 2009

State of Montana, State Legislator

Helena, Mt 59601

This is a letter to request your support of Bill Draft # lc1262, Bill Type #SB 196, in reference to a Native American Holiday. This Bill was championed by our students in Hays Lodge Pole H.S. on behalf of themselves and their kind. This bill was drafted to insure that the great diversity of the State of Montana might have a better knowledge of the Native American plight.

As one might think in a State with so many Native American Reservations we would have had a holiday in place long ago. How ever that is not the case. Of all the endeavors that our children could have done, our students chose this particular Bill to pursue. That alone tells me that we are starting to witness great days coming to us, as a time of peace and understanding between Native Americans and the United States with the youth leading the way, a very strong message is sent. The attentiveness to the necessary foundation of our democracy, that will instill equality among people for future generations. Something as simple as a Bill being ratified is what makes this country a wonderful place to live. This our students realize.

Let me be a witness that our children know their history, the present conditions of their people, and are proud of it all. They would like the world to know about all Native Americans. Which is a bigger step than generations, before would have ever taken. I am very proud of our students and would ask you to consider greatly the things which are put before you. As we will live together regardless the out come of your vote. Let us all help our children be proud of what they are and at the same time, not to be arrogant about the fact of past history as we need to move forward let us do so in happiness.

Thank you for your time and support,

Kenneth Luffy the Goson Kenneth (Tuffy) Helgeson

Fort Belknap Indian Community



R.R. 1, Box 66 Fort Belknap Agency Harlem, Montana 59526 PH: (406) 353-2205

FAX: Council - (406) 353-4541 FAX: Departments - (406) 353-2797 Fort Beiknap Indian Co.

January 16, 2009

Hon. Jonathan Windy Boy, Senator Montana Senate PO Box 200500 Helena, MT 59620-0500

RE: SB 196 State Holiday for American Indian Heritage Celebration

Dear Senator Windy Boy:

It is with great pleasure that the Fort Belknap Indian Community endorses proposed SB 196. As you are aware, Native Americans are an integral part of Montana History, even prior to statehood.

Such a state holiday would not only honor Native Americans, but allow all Montana citizens the opportunity to reflect on the role Native Americans play in the formation and continuation of the great State of Montana. All Montana citizens would be able to take part in any celebrations and recognition of Native American heritage.

Thank you for sponsoring this Bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information.

JULIA dONEY
President